

above. Instead, the Examiner merely states that “the common technical feature in all groups is the user authenticator and the application server searcher”, and then asserts that these elements are not a special technical feature because they are shown in the prior art of U.S. Patent 5,867,494 to KRISNASWAMY.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion that the above-noted features are shown in KRISNASWAMY, and thus, are not a common technical feature. M.P.E.P. §1893.03(d) specifies that a group of inventions will be considered to be linked to form a single inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one (emphasis added) common corresponding special technical feature.

As argued at pages 12-14 in the Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 filed on September 3, 2009, KRISNASWAMY fails to disclose (or even suggest) that a relay server apparatus (1) establishes a session between a client terminal and an application server to deliver a service to the client terminal, and (2) performs predetermined operations including receiving a session establishment request, authenticating the client terminal, searching an application server, relaying the session establishment request, relaying a response from the application server, and relaying a confirmation request from the client terminal. Applicant submits that it is at least these technical features that link the group of inventions identified by the Examiner, and result in the formation of a single inventive concept.

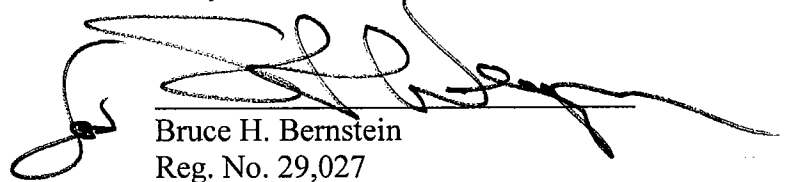
In this regard, Applicant submits that column 59, lines 1-25 of KRISNASWAMY discloses that Welcome Server 450 authenticates user 452 at a login time and, after successful authentication, shows a service selection screen to user 452 from which an application is selected. On the other hand, the relay server of Applicant’s claimed invention does not show a service selection screen to the client terminal after a successful authentication. Instead, the user

in Applicant's claimed invention selects a desired service before authentication and, after successful authentication, the relay server searches an application server that delivers the desired service. Accordingly, Applicant submits that KRISHNASWAMY et al. differs from the relay server of Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, Applicant submits it is incorrect to assert that this feature is shown in the prior art.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all the claims in the application are linked to form a single inventive concept, and thus, all the claims should be examined. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and examine all the pending claims.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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April 8, 2010
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